

## THE HAWAIIAN GAZETTE

RODERICK O. MATHESON, EDITOR

FRIDAY MORNING,  
MARCH 5

THE ADVERTISER'S SEMI-WEEKLY

## The Food Situation

A COUPLE of weeks ago, the wireless reports to The Advertiser from Washington quoted a promise of the President that a statement of the food situation in the United States would be issued at once by the department of agriculture, a statement which, the President said, would remove the growing alarm lest the demand of Europe for wheat would deplete the American supply to the point of acute scarcity. The statement of the department has been made, an advance copy reaching Honolulu in the mail yesterday.

According to the figures of the department of agriculture, the United States could export a million bushels a day to Europe, without touching the supply needed for home consumption. With the British and French ships now a third of the way through the Dardanelles, with one hundred millions of bushels of Russian wheat ready to pour out as soon as the passageway is cleared, there appears little danger of any further increase in the price of wheat and flour.

According to the figures of the department, the 1914 wheat crop of the United States was estimated to be 891,000,000 bushels. The estimated surplus carried over from the 1913 crop was about 76,000,000 bushels. There was, therefore, a total available supply of 967,000,000 bushels. As the normal annual per capita consumption of wheat in the United States is about 5.3 bushels, 520,000,000 bushels should meet our normal domestic requirements for food; in addition, 90,000,000 bushels are required annually for seeding. Six hundred and ten million bushels, therefore, should supply the normal domestic demand. This would leave a surplus of 3,700,000 bushels. Of this surplus about 210,000,000 bushels were exported by January 30. This left 147,000,000 bushels, or 40,000,000 bushels more than our average annual export for the past five years, for export between February 1 and the appearance of the new crop, or for carrying over into the next crop year. The amount is sufficient to permit the export of nearly 1,000,000 bushels a day until July 1, before which time the new crop will begin to be available. This is about the average recent exportation.

The large demand for our wheat arises from the fact that there was an estimated world's shortage of over 400,000,000 bushels outside of the United States; from the fact that the Russian exportable surplus of 100,000,000 bushels has not been available, and from the fact that the belligerent nations are eager to secure food supplies. If it were not for these things we should be discussing ways and means of disposing of our tremendous surplus of food products.

## No Court Contempt Gag

THE decision of the United States supreme court discharging from custody two employees of the New York Tribune, whom a lower court had found guilty of contempt of court, is a notable victory for the principle of a free press, comments Leslie's Weekly. Messrs. Burdick and Curtin, the defendants, had published certain information the treasury department wished to keep secret. In order that the government officials, who, contrary to the department rule, gave the facts to the newspaper men, might be disciplined, the United States district attorney in New York, at the secretary of the treasury's instigation, summoned the two witnesses before a federal grand jury and demanded the name of their informant. They refused to testify on the ground that they might incriminate themselves. The department of justice thereupon secured pardons for them from the President, claiming that these invalidated the immunity plea. The newspaper men rejected the pardons, declaring that they had done nothing for which they could be pardoned. Still declining to testify, they were brought before a federal district judge, adjudged in contempt of court and sentenced to fine and imprisonment. The case was appealed to the United States supreme court, which reversed the judgment of the court below, on the ground that a pardon is ineffective unless accepted by the defendant, and that no man is obliged to accept a pardon. This left the immunity plea in full effect. The highest tribunal in the land has in this opinion nullified an ingenious attempt to establish a sort of censorship over the press and thus to curb its freedom, to destroy its enterprise and to impair its service to the public.

## Part of Scheme

IT would be very interesting to know just what cablegrams from Honolulu went to Kuhio at Washington to induce his cabled request to the legislature not to go on record regarding the community's choice of a site for the federal building. Honolulu is being jobbed in this matter on behalf of a few private interests, who do not care a whoop for the good of the city provided they can saddle their back lot off on the community. As a matter of fact, the free selection of a site has never been left to the treasury department. Misinformation has been supplied regarding the Irwin site and every possible objection has been thrown in the way of the selection of that logical and infinitely preferable location. Kuhio's cable to the legislature is simply a part of the whole scheme to unload the Spreckels' site upon the government.

## Sacrifice To Lose

PRESIDENT MENOCAL of Cuba is quoted as saying that the United States can hardly expect to increase its trade with Cuba, or even to hold what it has at present, if it persists in removing the sugar preferential which Cuba now enjoys by virtue of the reciprocity treaty. If the United States removes the duty from sugar, as the existing law provides shall be done on May 1, 1916, Cuba will be forced to abrogate the reciprocity treaty, according to President Menocal.

This will mean the loss of a profitable trade in Cuba. This trade is already passing into the hands of Spain and other foreign countries. The Spanish Trans-Atlantic Line has announced that it will increase its line to Cuba by ten steamers, and the Spanish government has made certain tariff concessions with an object of securing Cuban trade.

It may be that congress does not care whether American exporters do business with Cuba or not. Possibly that business is an odious outgrowth of dollar diplomacy that should be destroyed. But if it is to be destroyed, there should be some corresponding benefit to the United States. Will it be in the reduced cost of sugar to the consumer? Householders can answer that question from their own experience following the partial removal of the duty on sugar. They got no benefit from the reduction. They will get no benefit if the duty is entirely removed. Cuba will be injured, and trade between the two countries will be injured, but American consumers will not be helped.

The revenue from the sugar duty was about \$50,000,000 a year. With the duty removed, the income tax was substituted for the purpose of raising revenue for the government. The income tax fails to produce the revenue required, and there is a deficit of \$65,000,000. The war tax is added to the burdens of the people, and still the deficit remains. It is now proposed to keep the war tax on until peace is restored in Europe—an indefinite and probably a long time. From present prospects the war will last until after May 1, 1916, the date when the United States is to cut off its revenue from the sugar duty. Thus, when the government most needs funds, it is cutting down its revenue from the tariff and increasing the direct taxes of the people.

One of the obvious things to do, if congress wishes to relieve the people from taxation and at the same time to stimulate trade, says the editor of "International Investments," commenting on the Cuban reciprocity situation, is to repeal the law which will place sugar on the free list next year. Let the old duty be restored. The people will pay no more for sugar, while the government will get more revenue.

## All Sides In It

THE action of the French admiralty in seizing the steamer Dacia follows the action the Austro-Hungarian government intimated it would take towards vessels under altered registry caught carrying cargoes to other than Austro-Hungarian ports. According to the text of the notice served on the state department by the Austro-Hungarian ambassador at Washington, even German ports were not excepted. The notification said:

The Imperial and Royal Government is ready to waive until further notice the point of invalidity of a change of flag, enacted in articles 55 and 56 of the London declaration of February 26, 1909, concerning the maritime law in time of war, with respect to vessels that have been registered in the United States, in so far as and as long as these vessels will be used between American ports on the one hand and Austrian or Hungarian ports on the other hand for the direct transport of merchandise of nonneutral character, particularly cotton, destined for import to Austria-Hungary, and for return cargoes from Austria-Hungary, destined for the United States of America and consumption in those States.

Each of these vessels must be furnished with a certificate from the competent American authority to the effect that it is carrying on direct route merchandise exclusively destined for Austria-Hungary to an Austrian or Hungarian port, and that on the homeward voyage only such cargoes of goods will be loaded in Austria-Hungary as are destined for and to be consumed in the United States of America. Every vessel would further have to carry a letter of safe conduct for each individual voyage between the United States and Austria-Hungary, issued on the basis of this certificate by the Austro-Hungarian ambassador at Washington requesting both Imperial and Royal as well as German warships to permit the vessel to pass unmolested.

The Austro-Hungarian ambassador at Washington is being authorized at the same time to issue such letters of safe conduct. The Imperial and Royal naval forces are also being instructed to permit vessels to pass unmolested that are flying the American flag and which are furnished with such letters of safe conduct and running on the route referred to.

Evidently both sides in Europe are agreed that American registry may be given the ships of their flag, but only on condition that when the American flag is raised over such a re-registered vessel it will not protect trade with the enemy. If the Dacia were carrying a cargo to either England or France it is certain that it would not be seized by a warship of the Allies, while it would have run the risk of being sunk by a German submarine.

Now, with an announced absolute blockade against Germany and the "war zone" proclamation in force against England and France, the carrying on of American trade with Europe has its excitements, to say the least.

Fresno, California, has a "committee of six" which chops down the billboards, the newspapers being notified by letter that there will always be sharp axe handy for any further defacing signboards that may go up. Honolulu has a better system than that. Moral suasion and indisputable evidence that billboards in Honolulu do not pay the advertisers beat the swinging hatchets.

The commission investigating the increased raise in rents in San Francisco apartments since the opening of the exposition will probably find that it is due to the war in Europe. Every other raise has been giving that for an excuse.

## Domestic Sugar Benefits

IN his testimony before the Hardwick Congressional Committee, Claus A. Spreckels, president of the Federal Sugar Refining Company and originator of the free sugar campaign, declared that the actual cost of refining sugar was not more than thirty cents the hundred pounds. Refiners must charge more because of the loss of weight in refining due to the washing out of impurities contained in the unrefined product, but the sum named, he explained, covered the cost of labor, materials and management.

This figure is interesting, says Facts About Sugar, because it gives a basis for discovering what American industry actually derives from the refining of foreign grown sugar. According to Mr. Spreckels, counting in everything, including the labor of workers in the refinery, the cost of bone black, lime, bags, barrels and other materials, the salaries of managers and salesmen and every other item entering into the process, the disbursements connected with the refining of a single long ton—2240 pounds—of sugar amount to \$6.72. During the year 1913 the people of the United States consumed 3,743,160 long tons of sugar, so that the total sum that would have been disbursed to American industry had all this sugar been of foreign origin would have been a little over \$25,000,000.

How would American industry have fared by comparison if the sugar used by the American people in 1913 had been grown from American soil and if all the factory processes connected with its production had been performed in the United States? Under such circumstances some of the sugar would have been extracted from cane and some from beets, but the cost of the two processes is approximately the same and the latter may be used for purposes of comparison.

An average of figures obtained from several independent sources shows that the American farmer received from the factory a trifle less than two and a half cents a pound for sugar in the beet. Had all the sugar consumed in 1913 been produced at home the farmers of the country would have received \$209,000,000, which in turn would have gone to pay for labor, fertilizer, farm implements and all the things that the farmer consumes.

The cost of extracting sugar in a factory was given before a Senate Committee by E. H. Dyer, a well known authority on this subject, as \$3.09 a ton for beets. This would give \$108,000,000 as the disbursement to factory labor, and for coal, lime and other materials used in the factory. In addition there is a matter of \$13,000,000 representing the amount that would have been received by the railways for hauling the beets to the factory. Taking into account only these three items it appears that the return to American industry from the production at home of all the sugar consumed by the American people in 1913 would have amounted to \$330,000,000, as compared with a return of \$25,000,000 had the entire amount been imported and merely refined here. At the average wholesale price of sugar during 1913, the cost of the sugar consumed in the United States was \$358,000,000. With sugar drawn entirely from foreign lands only 7 per cent of this amount would have gone to American industry. With all the sugar produced from American soil the proportion distributed to American farmers, American labor and for American material would have been 90 per cent. The difference is a matter of over \$300,000,000 a year in favor of home production.

## The Submarine Blockade

PREMIER ASQUITH'S statement in the British house of commons, describing the submarine blockade of the British coast as a failure, as reported by wireless press dispatches, may be a premature announcement, or may be issued for its effect upon home and neutral opinion. Yet, if the world has been correctly informed of the amount of damage done by the German submarines, both before and after the declaration of the "war zone," the damage inflicted upon the British merchant marine is very slight.

According to the announcements that have been given out, prior to February 18, when the German submarine blockade officially commenced, mines had sunk since August 1, twenty-two British steamers, ten of these being small craft under 500 tons burden. Up to the commencement of the blockade nine British steamers had been sunk by German submarines, while a total of forty-eight British steamers had been sunk by the German raiders on all the seas. Since the inauguration of the blockade, ten British steamers have gone down in British and Channel waters.

So far as the blockade is concerned, these ten represent the height of the German effort between February 18 and March 2, twelve days' time. It is upon these figures that Premier Asquith reports the blockade a failure. Except for the cancelling of the British-Dutch service, the blockade has not, so far as available information goes, materially interfered with the sailing to and from the British ports.

The figures given out by Lloyd's of the shipbuilding in the British yards during 1914 show that these have a capacity of turning out nine steamships every five days, and the 1914 record was below that of 1913, indicating that, if necessary, the British yards can supply ships at a rate of nearly two for every twenty-four hours.

The problem presented by the British Premier's claim, then, is: If the British can build twenty-four ships in twelve days and the blockaders can sink only ten, how long will it be before the British shipping is cleared out?

## Relative Naval Strength

THOSE American wisacres who are counting upon the United States taking a leading position as a naval power because of the destruction of the naval vessels of Great Britain and Germany overlook the fact that both of these belligerents are building vessels far faster than they are losing them, and, unless their destruction proceeds in far greater ratio than at present, their naval strength will have increased by the end of this year, while their relative proportions are not likely to change greatly, says the Army and Navy Journal. A naval expert is reported as saying that England will during 1915 finish, equip and commission a new navy, practically the equal of the present fleet of the United States. "Along with these fifteen new capital ships; England," we are told, "is building the corresponding supplementary fleet of light cruisers, destroyers and submarines. Her dockyards are performing wonders in respect to quick work." Germany, too, is building new war craft day and night. The new vessels of both Powers will be so great an improvement on present fighting strength that our Navy will be insignificant in comparison.

SEAMAN'S BILL HITS  
PACIFIC MAIL HARD

(Associated Press by Federal Wireles)  
SAN FRANCISCO, March 4.—That the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, operating a fleet of steamers on the Pacific, will be put out of business by the Seamen's Bill which has just passed congress is the declaration of R. P. Schwerin, vice president and general manager of the company. He says:

"The enforcement of the Seamen's Bill means that the Pacific Mail can do nothing but go out of business. It is impossible to compete with the Japanese."

"By this bill our operating expenses are increased 200 per cent annually. The total increase is \$800,000. The company never earned more than \$200,000 in one year."

JAPAN WILL SUSTAIN  
PRICE OF RAW SILK

(Associated Press by Federal Wireles)  
NEW YORK, March 5.—It was announced here yesterday that the Japanese government had matured plans for the formation of a corporation along the lines of the Brazil valorization scheme for the purpose of maintaining the prices for raw silk at a level to yield a profit to the producers.

HINTON MINE DISASTER  
HAS DEATH ROLL OF 180

(Associated Press by Federal Wireles)  
HINTON, West Virginia, March 5.—All hope of any further rescues from the galleries of the mine in which the recent explosion occurred has been abandoned, and it is believed that the death roll will show a total of one hundred and eighty names. Yesterday the bodies of thirty-nine more of the victims of the explosion were recovered.

AMERICAN LEGION  
IGNORES CENSURE

(Associated Press by Federal Wireles)  
NEW YORK, March 5.—Despite official censure and the protests of pacifists, the plans for the organization of the American Legion, to induce the formation from among former army and navy men of a reserve force of between 200,000 and 300,000 men, ready for the first call in an emergency, are progressing.

Yesterday the certificate of incorporation of the legion was officially approved of by Justice Gavegan of the state supreme court, and the officers of the legion announce that they are now ready for business.

## CALIFORNIANS TO JOIN

(Associated Press by Federal Wireles)  
SAN FRANCISCO, March 4.—The California Veterans have decided to join the newly-organized American Legion, formed to promote national defense and to organize reservists for America.

PRESIDENT SIGNS  
NEUTRALITY BILL

(Associated Press by Federal Wireles)  
WASHINGTON, March 5.—President Wilson yesterday signed the joint resolution passed on the eve of dissolution by congress which authorizes him to direct all collectors of ports to withhold clearance papers from all vessels suspected of carrying supplies to the ships of belligerents at sea. The resolution provides for heavy penalties for such violations of neutrality. This resolution is now in full effect, and the port collectors will be immediately notified of the steps they are expected to take.

JAPANESE CRUISER  
ASAMA IS NOT LOST

(Associated Press by Federal Wireles)  
ESQUIMALT, British Columbia, March 5.—The steamer Proteus, which is assisting in the work of getting the Japanese cruiser Asama off the rocks off Point San Bartolome, Mexico, where she drove ashore on February 5, reports by wireless that the Japanese fighting ships will be floated soon.

Temporary repairs have been made and the cruisers is expected to make this station for drydocking and repairs.

When the Asama went ashore it was believed that she would be a total loss, her commander so reporting. Her fighting equipment was taken off and transferred to other vessels and the work of salvaging what could be saved was under way before it was believed that she could be refloated.

RELIEF SHIP CAMINO  
WILL RESUME VOYAGE

(Associated Press by Federal Wireles)  
SAN FRANCISCO, March 4.—The owners of the California relief ship Camino, disabled in the Atlantic, report that the ship will be able to continue her voyage in a fortnight. The damage is estimated at \$11,000.

ADVICE AS TO BELGIUM  
FROM NEUTRALS SPURNED

(Associated Press by Federal Wireles)  
LONDON, March 4.—"Unless neutrals are prepared to assist in throwing the Germans out of Belgium no suggestions from them in the matter of preventing further devastation are wanted," was the declaration made in parliament today by Sir Edward Grey, foreign secretary.

NOTED EXPERT SAYS  
INSURANCE IS NOT  
PRIVATE BUSINESS

Frederick L. Hoffman Declares  
That Selling Policies Is Strictly  
Public Enterprise

Insurance is not a private business but a public enterprise, and the quicker the insurance companies and insurance men recognize this fact the better it will be for them. So said Frederick L. Hoffman, statistician of the Prudential Insurance Co. of New Jersey, in an address before the Insurance Club of Hawaii at the midweek luncheon given at the Alexander Young cafe at noon yesterday. Twenty-five members of the club, representatives of practically all the insurance companies operating in this territory, were present at what proved to be one of the most instructive gatherings this organization has held. It was instructive in that Mr. Hoffman is recognized as one of the best postal men on insurance in the United States, and a world authority on the vital statistics upon which life insurance rates are based.

There seemed to be no phase of the insurance business but that he had a fund of information about it. The value of insurance companies adopting a standard policy, he declared, would eliminate companies that resort to technicalities to avoid payment of their obligations, something the legitimate insurance companies are constantly endeavoring to do.

C. J. McCarthy, territorial treasurer, was among those present. Together with Mr. Hoffman he was elected an honorary member of the Insurance Club of Hawaii.

Edwin Benner, manager of the insurance department of the Waterhouse Trust Company, who is president of the club, officiated at the luncheon yesterday. Mr. Hoffman will be the guest of the club during his month's visit in the islands. He is scheduled to speak before the medical society this evening. His subject will be "Health Problems in Hawaii." He is an authority of medical questions and especially cancer.

In addition he is chairman of a national commission for the enactment of uniform compensation legislation, as well as a member of the National Civic Federation. He has written a book for the United States government on occupational hazards, accidents and diseases, prepared from personal investigation covering practically the entire world. Considerable of the insurance legislation now in force in the United States has been based upon statistical information furnished by Mr. Hoffman.

TAYLOR EXPLAINS  
HOW TO SEE FAIR

"Hawaii's 'painted fish' will be one of the most talked of exhibits on the exposition grounds. The problem of caring for the fish is proving a serious one. The water from the bay cannot be used because it contains so large a percent of fresh water and oil. It was found necessary to send a tug outside the harbor nearby as far as the Palomares to bring in a tank of clear ocean water," said Acting Director A. P. Taylor of the promotion committee in his talk on the exposition at the Y. M. C. A. last evening.

Fine Location for Hawaii

"The Hawaii building has a most fortunate location near the intersection of two main avenues and opposite the California building. The singing of our musicians will attract the throngs which pass along these streets into our building. Our building is near both the states section and the foreign section. The visitor to the exposition will feel most like Gulliver in Brobdingnag, as told by Swift. It is all stupendous and marvelous in its design and coloring."

Advise Your Relatives

"I would advise that you make sure your relatives in San Francisco have prepared for your coming before you plan to surprise them with a visit this summer. Every resident of the Bay City has received numerous letters from long forgotten and unheard-of relatives, telling how pleased they were that they would be able to visit them this summer. I have heard that some folk are even moving into apartments across the bay and then writing of their sorrow at being unable to entertain visitors in so cramped quarters," said Mr. Taylor.

Gives Practical Advice

The speaker told in a most interesting way of many of the details of the exposition and of the labors of the men who were planning and promoting it. He gave some very practical advice about the best way to see the different features of the fair.

He described the marvels to be seen in the "Pachwork Zone," such as Creation, which interprets Genesis; the Evolution of the Dinosaur, which shows fighting ships in diorama representations from the days of Tyre and Sidon to Manila Bay. He also told of the wonderful system of lighting the lofty towers and pinnacles.

The audience was interested in statements as to how light to see the exposition, cost of admission to the various concessions, where to obtain meals, what to wear and where to live.

'SPEEDING UP' BARRED

(Associated Press by Federal Wireles)  
WASHINGTON, March 5.—"Speeding up" methods in army and navy plants are barred hereafter by the terms of the appropriation bills.